

is probably a Dravidian goddess *by* origin.
 In this part
 of the country, she is made the mother of
 Parasurania,
 a hero of the *MahabJiarata* days, later
 treated as an
 incarnation of Vishnu. This goddess, it
 seems, started
 one morning, disguised as an old hag with
 the body
 full of sores. The son asked her where she
 was going.
 She said she was going to the house of a
 poor woman
 and her brother. This poor woman had
 several children.
 Apparently she was a widow. Her brother
 lived in the
 same village. He was a prosperous man,
 but would
 not give anything to the poor. Yellamma
 came first
 to the brother and begged for something.
 He drove
 "her away. She then came to the house of
 the widow
 and asked for alms. The widow said, "I
 am poor.
 My children have nothing to eat. What
 shall I give
 you, O poor old woman?" This pleased the
 goddess
 because, though she had nothing herself, the
 widow felt
 "kindly to a beggar. She said,, "Go and ask
 your brother
 and bring something to me." The widow
 said, "Very
 well; wait." She went to her brothers
 house and
 asked the brother for some grain. He
 said, "I will
 not give you anything. What will remain
 to me if
 I go on giving to the poor people? By
 helping you?
 I become like you." She shed tears, but he
 took no
 pity on her. Then she went to her younger
 sister who
 was living In the brother's house,, and told
 her what
 had happened. That sister took pity on her
 and, put-
 ting some grain into a vessel, started from

the house
as if for bringing water and gave the
grain to the
elder sister near the well. The latter
brought it to the
Tiouse and made some food with it and even
though the
children were hungry she served it to the
old woman.